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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/069,762	02/28/2002	Moon-Key Han	P56692	3704

7590 03/18/2005  
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EXAMINER	
NOVOSAD, JENNIFER ELEANORE	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3634	

DATE MAILED: 03/18/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/069,762

Applicant(s)

HAN, MOON-KEY

Examiner

Jennifer E. Novosad

Art Unit

3634

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 November 2004 and 22 February 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 11-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 21-30 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 11-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 October 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

### **DETAILED ACTION**

This non-final Office action is in response to the Request for Continued Examination filed February 22, 2005 and the after-final amendment filed November 19, 2004 by which claim 12 was amended (into independent form).

#### ***Request for Continued Examination***

The request filed on February 22, 2005 for a Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.53(d) based on parent Application No. 10/069,762 is acceptable and an RCE has been established. An action on the RCE follows.

#### ***Election/Restriction***

Claims 21-30 stand withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in the reply filed on February 17, 2004.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

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Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 658,991 (Langguth '991).

Langguth '991 discloses a unit comprising a support body (b) buried in a bar of soap (A); a first connecting means (unnumbered - horizontal portion located between b<sup>3</sup> and B) extending out of the bar of soap from a first end (top of Figure 2) of the bar of soap, i.e., the receptacle is in the bar of soap and the first connecting means is in the receptacle, so the first connecting means is considered to "extend out of the bar of soap"; the first connecting means for connecting the bar of soap (A) to a hanging device (b<sup>3</sup>); and a second connecting means (b) extends out of the bar of soap from a second end (bottom of Figure 2).

It is noted that claim 11 is positively claiming only one support body. Also, it is noted that the recitation "for connecting the bar of soap to one of the other items" in the last line of claim 11, is merely functional, i.e., the claim is not positively requiring that the second connecting means be connected to another structure, and thus the second connecting means of Langguth is considered to be *capable* of connecting the bar of soap to another item, such as a piece of string.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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Claims 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Langguth '991 in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,054,321 (Macchia '321).

Langguth '991 discloses the unit as advanced above.

The claims differ from Langguth '991 in requiring the first connecting means to comprise an insertion shaft which is enlarged at its end (claim 12); and (b) the second connecting means to comprises a shaft having a socket type clip formed at an thereof (claim 13).

It is noted that the recitations "for insertion into a socket type clip provided at an end of the hanging device" in claim 12 and "for connection to an enlarged end of an insertion shaft" in claim 13, are merely functional and hence are not being required, i.e., positively claimed. *In other words*, a unit need not have a socket type clip to meet the language of claim 12.

*With respect to claims 12 and 13*, Macchia '321 teaches a connection device comprising a first connecting means having an insertion shaft (22) which is enlarged at its end (40) and which is inserted into a socket type clip (at 30<sup>b</sup> - see Figure 9).

*Thus, with respect to (a) and (b)*, it would have been an obvious design choice to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have provided the unit of Langguth '991 with the first connecting means and the second connecting means, as specified in the respective claims, for ease in assembly and removal of the unit with other items having similar connecting means.

Claims 14 and 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Langguth '991 as applied to claim 11 above, and further in view of Macchia '321.

Langguth '991 discloses the unit as advanced above.

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The claims differ from Langguth '991 in requiring: (a) the second connecting means to comprises a shaft having a socket type clip formed at an thereof (claim 14); (b) the first connecting means to comprise a shaft having a bolt (claim 18); and (c) the second connecting means to have a shaft with a nut part (claims 19 and 20).

It is noted that the recitations "for connection to a nut part" in claim 18 and "for connection to a bolt" in claims 19 and 20 are merely functional and hence are not being required, i.e., positively claimed.

*With respect to claim 14*, Macchia '321 teaches a connection device comprising a first connecting means having an insertion shaft (22) which is enlarged at its end (40) and which is inserted into a socket type clip (at 30<sup>b</sup> - see Figure 9) and *with respect to claims 18-20*, Macchia '321 teaches a connection device comprising a first connecting means having a shaft (22 - see Figure 7) with a bolt formed *on an end* which is inserted into a second connecting means having a nut part (26<sup>a</sup>) .

*Thus, with respect to (a)-(c)*, it would have been an obvious design choice to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have provided the unit of Langguth '991 with the first connecting means and the second connecting means, as specified in the respective claims, for ease in assembly and removal of the unit with other items having similar connecting means.

Claims 15-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Langguth '991 as applied to claim 11 above, and further in view of Japanese Patent No. 8-52085.

Langguth '991 discloses the unit as advanced above.

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The claims differ from Langguth '991 in requiring: (a) the first connecting means to comprise a shaft having a hook for connection to the hanging device (claim 15); and (b) the second connecting device to comprise a shaft having a ring formed at an end (claims 16 and 17).

It is noted that the recitations "for connection to a hook" in claims 16 and 17 is merely functional and hence is not being required, i.e., positively claimed. *In other words*, a unit need not have a hook to meet the language of claims 16 and 17.

Japanese Patent No. 8-52085 teaches that it is old to utilize a hook (see Figure 7) for the first connecting means so that the unit (1) can be connected to a hanging device (11 - see Figure 2) and a shaft (3d) with a ring (5) at an end (see Figure 10).

*With respect to (a) and (b)*, it would have been an obvious design choice to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have provided the unit of Langguth '991 with the first connecting means comprising a hook and the second connecting means comprising a ring, for ease in assembly and removal of the unit with other items having similar connecting means.

### ***Conclusion***

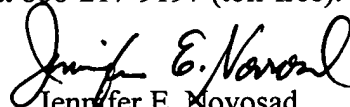
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jennifer E. Novosad whose telephone number is (703)-305-2872. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 5:30am-4:00pm.

Please note, that due to the relocation of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office from Arlington to Alexandria, Virginia, the Examiner's phone number will be changed. After April 7, 2005, please contact the Examiner at (571) 272-6832.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Carl D. Friedman can be reached on (703)-308-0839. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
Jennifer E. Novosad  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3634

Jennifer E. Novosad/jen  
March 15, 2005